

The Falcon Focus

Volume 7 – Number 4 - Spring Edition

FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

Dear Families,

This spring edition of the Falcon Focus is full of information that demonstrates what a wonderful school community we have at Floral Street School. Cheryl Mendelson and Paula Trabucco, our PTO's co-presidents, highlight the partnership between home and school that is flourishing at Floral, and they include data to show how the PTO's fundraising is vital to the health of our school program. I would like to thank the PTO's leadership and membership for their incredible efforts throughout the year—we couldn't be as successful as we are without you.

Floral Street School professionals have also written several excellent pieces for this newsletter. Our assistant principal, Jane Lizotte, provides (as usual) a piece that reflects the wisdom she has gained as both a parent and an educator, and I urge you to think carefully about the points she makes. We are also very fortunate to have an extremely talented cadre of specialists here at Floral. In this issue, four of them have written articles that provide information regarding the outstanding teaching and learning that is occurring in our academic program as well as great tips for parents to help you provide enrichment at

home. Part of the Shrewsbury Public Schools' mission is to provide students with "the desire to continue to learn throughout life," and I hope you can use this information to help your children be excited about learning by reading and writing at home. Thank you to Carol Bradley, Maureen Henry, Patty Lambert, and Margaret Welch for their contributions to this newsletter. Please do contact them if you have questions or comments about their topics (you can find their e-mails on our website at www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral).

When this newsletter is published, we will have just completed National Teacher Appreciation Week. In light of this, I think it is appropriate for me to note here that I believe the collective talent and dedication of our faculty is worthy of our greatest appreciation. The level of expectation and responsibility that we place upon our teachers is enormous, and it takes a very special group of people to take on this challenge and excel. I consistently witness our teachers going above and beyond in order to ensure that our students are receiving the highest quality program. As a school leader, it is a pleasure to work with teachers like ours who are eager to improve their own practice, whether they have few or many years of experience. I think that our teachers exemplify our core values: They work together and instill a spirit of cooperation in our students; they have a positive attitude about learning that motivates our students; they strive to maximize their own learning in order to do the same for our students; and they treat others with a level of respect that sets a wonderful example for our students. I am humbled every day when I witness the amazing teaching that happens in Floral Street School classrooms, and I hope you share the pride I feel when I reflect upon the high quality of the work that our teachers do. The children of Floral Street School are fortunate indeed.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer

FROM THE PRESIDENTS . . .

Dear Floral Street Families, Teachers and Staff:

As we sat down to gather our thoughts to write our final letter to all of you, we had the opportunity to reflect back on what a success this 2003-2004 school year has been. This success is due in large part to the continued support and cooperative effort the families, Teachers and Staff have shown. Working together really works!

Our special thanks go out to the following people:

- All the parents who sent back forms, coordinated and volunteered at events or worked behind the scenes.
- Mary Hastings, our incredible Volunteer Coordinator- from making phone calls and sending e-mails and flyers out - her organizational skills truly amazed us!!
- Patricia Fay for providing with such "presentation" hospitality at our meetings and community reading day.
- PTO Parent Reps for their groundbreaking roles in our Grade Level Events- coordinating these and making them the huge success that they were. We hope families had fun and will continue to support these as an annual tradition at Floral.
- Carolyn Coburn and Ann Marie Rogers for their wonderful planning and implementing of "Breakfast with Dad or SomeBuddy Special."
- Cathy Burke for coordinating once again, a successful Hoop Shoot.
- Student Council Reps for giving their assistance at our events.
- Carol Bradley, Kara Frankian, Mary Ann Hogan, and Gina Kelly for their coordination of Floral Street School's first ever "Celebration of Earth Day" after school activities.
- The custodial staff and cafeteria personnel for their support with our events.
- Marie Cicuto and Lynda McBride for their frequent assistance and patience!
- And last, but truly not least, Joe Sawyer and Jane Lizotte for making it so easy to work together and achieve the common goal we all share – making Floral Street School a wonderful place to learn and a community we all feel proud to be a part of.

Finally, our personal thanks to an Executive Board who worked tirelessly throughout the year: Lisa Greene, Sophia Sweeney and Kim Andrews. It has truly been a pleasure working with you!

Attached to this edition of the Falcon Focus is an outline of the money that has been raised by PTO sponsored events and fund-raisers, as well as an itemized list of how the money was dispersed throughout the year. It is truly something we can all be proud of and is both a reflection of the past and current strength of our PTO, which in the end, is comprised of all the families that make up our school community. We continue to attain our goal of working together as a community to enrich our children's lives.

Looking ahead, we will be having the **Falcon Fun Run** on May 14th and a **Summer Required Reading Book Swap** at the end of May /early June. Please watch your Monday folders for more information. This successful year will culminate with the **2nd Annual Falcon Family Fair** on June 5th which promises to be great fun for Floral Families and friends. Come out and enjoy the day while supporting our school!

In closing, we would like to remind everyone that our final PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. with free child care provided.

Wishing you a great end of the school year and a summer filled with lots of laughter and fun!

Warmest, Cheryl Mendelson and Paula Trabucco

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE. . .

"Finish each day and be done with it...
you have done what you could;
some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in;
forget them as soon as you can.
**Tomorrow is a new day;
You shall begin it well and serenely."**

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Springtime Renewal

By Jane O. Lizotte

Spring has sprung, and with the arrival of spring, comes a renewed commitment to teaching and learning. Each "new day" is filled with unique learning experiences that cannot be replicated outside the classroom walls. We, the Floral Street School community, continue to focus on our core values that include:

- At Floral Street School, **everyone will work together** in order to provide the best possible experience for children.
- At Floral Street School, we will **demonstrate a positive attitude about learning**.
- At Floral Street School, we will **strive to maximize our learning**.
- At Floral Street School, we will **understand and demonstrate respect for ourselves, for others, and for our community**.

Springtime brings with it many commitments outside of the school day, such as dance recitals, sports practices and games, family nights, field trips, evening meetings, religious celebrations, and community events. Parents and caretakers work diligently to organize family calendars in hopes of managing and prioritizing the many individual and family commitments. Teachers and specialists continue to plan instruction that is engaging, meaningful and best meets the needs of the individual learners in the classroom. At Floral Street School, these remaining six weeks of the school year are dedicated to continuing our commitment to helping children reach their potential and achieve the individual goals established at the beginning of the school year. In order to do that effectively, we continue to seek the support of parents and caretakers.

As we arrive at these final weeks of the school year, I ask that you renew your commitment to prioritizing the many demands being placed on you and your children. Children feel the pressures of this busy time of year, as much as, if not more than, we, the adults in their lives, do. In order to "maximize student learning," I ask that you assist us in focusing on learning by assisting your child in getting to bed at a reasonable time, and by maintaining a positive attitude, and offering support and encouragement. Declining invitations and requests that are unreasonable for you and/or your child and family is important to do and ultimately brings a sense of true satisfaction and renewal!

I recently visited with a group of students in my office who were struggling with a problem they encountered with one another on the playground. Feelings had been hurt, resulting in "best friends" being at odds with one another. We discussed events leading up to the disagreement at recess. The students explained that they had a lot on their minds with dance recitals quickly approaching, softball try-outs, school projects and homework assignments, MCAS testing, and invitations to "sleepover" birthday parties. As they spoke, I found myself reflecting on a recent conversation at our dinner table where my oldest daughter was asking for our help in organizing her weekend. The weekend "agenda" included: three babysitting commitments, one soccer game (in Groton), one sleep-over, studying for tests in math and Spanish, "dog sitting", and a promise made to her little sister to put her hair in dozens of braids. As she spoke, we found ourselves speechless; wishing that some of these previously agreed upon commitments were not so easily agreed upon!

Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice is, indeed, food for thought. In order to "begin it (tomorrow) well and serenely," we need to focus on what is important and what is not. As we continue to journey together during these

last six weeks of school, we need to continue to focus our attention on what makes the most sense for our students, as they are the reason we enter Floral Street School each day.

Thank you!

Jane Lizotte

Bus Policy Reminder

Food and Drink Prohibited

The safety of students who suffer from life threatening allergies is a major issue from our community. It is because of this concern, as well as the risk of choking, that food and drink, including candy, is strictly prohibited from consumption on the school bus at all times. All food, drink, and candy must remain contained, out of sight, and in a backpack while on the school bus. Thank you for helping your children understand this important policy.

To view all of the bus policies, please go to www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools



Dinner/Dance to Honor SEF Grant Recipients

The Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) extends congratulations to Kara Frankian, Gina Kelly and Mary Ann Hogan for being selected as grant recipients for the 2004-2005 school year. Their proposal was one of five selected to be funded in the Shrewsbury School System. They, along with the other grant recipients, will be honored during the Twelfth Annual SEF Dinner/Dance on Friday, May 21st at the Cyprian Keys Golf Club.

The project to be funded is entitled **HOOT!** (**H**ands-**O**n-**O**utdoor-**T**ool packs). **HOOT** will provide tools and classroom extension resources to be used in the school yard habitat and nature trail. Students in all grades will experience inquiry-based exploration as they collect and analyze data about the landscape, the weather, wildlife and the environment.

Kara, Gina and Mary Ann have gone the "extra mile" to bring meaningful and exciting educational opportunities to the children of Floral Street School. Join the friends of SEF for a fun evening as we honor them on May 21st. Cocktails begin at 7:00 PM, dinner at 8:00 PM, followed by a DJ and dancing. Tickets are \$50.00 per person with proceeds to fund future grants and may be reserved by calling Steve Grip at 508-842-9104.

Spelling: Questions Parents Ask (Part 1)

Source: *Spelling K-8 Planning and Teaching*. Diane Snowball & Faye Bolton. Stenhouse Publishers, 1999.

Adapted by Patty Lambert, Reading Specialist

This article is the first in a two-part series on commonly asked questions about spelling. The first article explains why spelling programs look different today; how children learn to spell; what makes a good speller and examines whether it is wise to direct a child to a dictionary when s/he is unable to spell a word. The second article will explain a teacher's role in correcting spelling errors and strategies parents can use with their children to improve spelling accuracy.

Why are children taught to spell in a different way from when we went to school?

Teachers and parents noticed that children could write words correctly in a spelling test but not write the same words correctly in their writing. Teachers also noticed that when they would tell children about spelling some children became confused and were unable to apply these rules correctly. So, teachers have been searching for better ways to teach spelling because the techniques of the past did not work for some children.

Spelling no longer involves just memorizing words without a sense of why they should be learned. Today spelling is viewed as a problem-solving task, where the writer uses many strategies to solve the problem. These strategies include listening for sounds in words, using common spelling patterns, using knowledge of the meaning relationships between words, and knowing how to apply common rules, or generalizations, about how to construct words.

How do children learn how to spell?

Children learn to spell from their reading, where they continually see words spelled conventionally. They also learn to spell while writing, as they use various strategies in attempting to spell unfamiliar words. Children are taught to listen for sounds in words and how to represent these sounds using different letters. When they have seen a word many times in their reading they will begin to recognize when a word looks right or not. As they become more experienced readers and writers, they will also think about the meaning relationships between words. For example, knowing how to spell *soft* will help them spell *soften*, even though they can't hear the *t*.

What makes someone a good speller?

Good spellers take risks and attempt new words. Good spellers are also interested in words and try to do their best, always being aware that their writing needs to be easily read by others. Good spellers also use different strategies to try words, and they use resources such as books, word lists, and dictionaries to check their spelling. Beginning writers will not be able to do all of these things, but they should feel that their writing is as valued as that of someone who knows how to spell many words the conventional way.

Should a child use a dictionary to find out how to spell a word?

Good spellers use all kinds of resources to check spelling, but it's helpful if they try the word first so that they have some ideas of its spelling. Children should try a word first, think about which part may not be right, try it again, and then check their ideas in a dictionary or some other resource. It's hard to find a word in a dictionary if you don't have at least some idea of how it is spelled.

NATURE TRAIL OFFERS PATH TO DISCOVERY

Carol Bradley, Curriculum Specialist

What better place to study nature than in your own backyard? That is precisely the question that members of the Nature Trail Committee at Floral Street School wanted to explore when they met for the first time this fall.

Since then, this newly formed committee has been the backbone of numerous learning opportunities for staff and students, and it's all happening in "our" backyard.

The Committee's goals are to increase and enhance the study of natural science through the grade levels by utilizing the nature trail and surrounding school land. To do this, they solicited the expertise of Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary Regional Education Coordinator Douglas W. Kimball. A highly knowledgeable naturalist and experienced educator in the field, Mr. Kimball has been actively involved with the committee in the planning and coordination of learning experiences during the year. Nature Trail Committee members include teaching staff representatives from each grade level. They are: Tina McGrail and Kara Frankian (grade 1); Elizabeth Caforio and Mary Ann Hogan (grade 2); Deborah Stanwick (grade 3); Elaine Morgan (grade 4); Kathy Rivenburg and Stephanie Aubin (grade 5). Also on the committee are Assistant Principal Jane Lizotte and Curriculum Specialist Carol Bradley.

On the March 12 Professional Development Day, Mr. Kimball provided a workshop to staff entitled "Introduction to Inquiry." The purpose of the workshop was to engage all teachers in an exploratory science experience that would mimic the type of inquiry-based learning process that students may have in the classroom. The staff worked in teams of 4-5 members, trying to problem-solve a pendulum challenge. Using the skills of inquiry that were expected by students, the teams asked questions, made predictions and observations, recorded data, and analyzed results. This understanding of inquiry is an essential component to learning science in the classroom based on the expectations of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

The second task of the Committee was to select a grade-level appropriate science lesson around the nature trail and serve as the pilot class for the activity. The lesson, in which students are actively engaged in inquiry both in and out of the classroom, is attended by all teachers within that grade level. The lessons focus on units of study designated in the Shrewsbury Curriculum Guide for that grade level. For example, grade 1 is exploring a given habitat and recording observations about that area over a given period of time. Grade 2 is collecting data using simple weather instruments. Their job is to describe the weather changes from day to day over an extended period of time. Grade 3 is focusing on the vibration and pitch of animal sounds on the nature trail in preparation of an animal sound survey. Grade 4 will examine what heredity is and how it is expressed in nature by observing plants on the trail. Grade 5 will explore four ways of measuring the height of a tree scientifically.

Joining the Floral Street staff on both of these occasions are members of the Al-Hamra Academy staff and their principal, Sadia Khan. This collaboration of schools and cultures has made the study of science and even richer experience for those involved.

Several of the Nature Trail Committee members attended the annual Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) conference on March 10th at the College of the Holy Cross. Also in attendance was co-president of the Floral Street PTO, Cheryl Mendelson. In addition to gathering information about programs and teaching possibilities in the natural sciences, the group also connected with local natural science author, Melissa Stewart. Ms. Stewart visited Floral Street to meet with members of the Committee, Media Specialist Martha Paine, Reading Specialists Patricia Lambert, Maureen Henry and Margaret Welch. Mrs. Paine has subsequently purchased, through the generosity of a trust fund, several nonfiction science books authored largely by Ms. Stewart.

In addition, Ms. Stewart presented a workshop on writing in science as part of the PTO Earth Week activities coordinated with the Nature Trail Committee. This program, which grew from a discussion between the PTO and Nature Trail Committee, provided over one hundred Floral Street students with two after-school afternoons of environmental science activities.

The Nature Trail Committee is hoping to continue its work of creating new opportunities for students on the trail as well as its partnerships with Mr. Kimball, the PTO, and the staff from Al-Hamra Academy. It has truly been a year to discover how much our own natural surroundings lend themselves to the teaching and learning of science.

Writer's Notebook

by Maureen Henry, Title I Reading Teacher

"A writer's notebook gives you a place to live like a writer, not just in school during writing time, but wherever you are, at any time of the day."

Ralph Fletcher

Would you love to be a better writer but you don't know where to start? The most important step you can take is to write every day. A writer's notebook provides you with the perfect opportunity to practice this habit. A writer's notebook is a tool that every writer can use. Its pages are filled with a writer's hopes, dreams, ideas, observations, feelings or interests. In fact, the notebook is a place where you can write about anything you want. A writer's notebook can be used in a variety of ways. It can be used as a place to remember things that you have read or seen, to remember memories or special moments or as a way to relieve stress. Most of all a writer's notebook is the perfect way to just enjoy writing!

How do you get started with a writer's notebook? It's easy! First, choose a book for your writing. You can use a three-ring binder, a notebook or a bound journal. Then, begin your writing. As you are writing don't worry about spelling or grammar. Just let your creative juices flow and have fun.

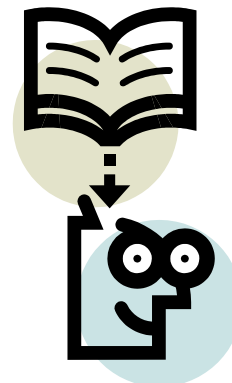
Ideas for a Writer's Notebook

- Describe a photo, including its history.
- Try writing a new story.
- Write a story based on your observations.
- Wonder about something.
- Make lists of words that are interesting, unusual or words you just like!
- Write or record poems.
- Record quotes.
- Write your thoughts or feelings.
- Record the events of the day, your dreams or family stories.
- Write ideas for things to do.

If your child is reluctant to write, a writer's notebook may provide a good venue to motivate him or her to write on a regular basis. A writer's notebook provides an opportunity to experiment with ideas and writing styles in a risk-free setting. Your child will be motivated if he or she sees you writing in a writer's notebook yourself. Not only will you be modeling for your child the importance of writing on a regular basis but also you may find that it is an enjoyable way to relax. Children can also be motivated by stories in which the character keeps a writer's notebook (some examples are listed below.)

Books with a Character Who Writes or Keeps a Notebook

- *A Rainbow for Robin* (Vance 1996)
- *The Amelia Series* (Moss 2000)
- *Anastasia Krupnik* (Lowry 1984)
- *Arthur For the Very First Time* (MacLachlan 1989)
- *Beans on the Roof* (Byars 1990)
- *Harriet the Spy* (Fitzhugh 1985)
- *Hey World, Here I Am* (Little 1990)
- *How to Grow Famous in Brooklyn* (Hest 1995)
- *I'm in Charge of Celebrations* (Baylor 1986)
- *Pageant* (Lasky 1986)
- *Poor Jenny, Bright as a Penny* (Murphy 1974)
- *Night Letters* (LoMonaco 1996)
- *Nobody is Perfick* (Waber 1991)
- *Mr. & Mrs. Thief* (Kojima 1980)
- *Sister* (Greenfield 1992)
- *Summer Rules* (Liepstye 1981)
- *The War With Grandpa* (Smith 1984)



Source: Fountas and Pinnell-Guiding Readers and Writers Grades 3-6

SPIRIT OF SHREWSBURY FALL FESTIVAL

Planning for the annual Spirit of Shrewsbury (SOS) Fall Festival has begun. Committees are starting to form for the gala celebration, which has been changed to October 1-3 for this year only. Art Dobson, Vice-President of the SOS, said, "In order to make the October weekend a success, we need many volunteers to help with the activities being planned. We need more participation and early commitment by the schools and town organizations. We are looking for people to help with the Town Common groups, craft fair, parade, obtaining sponsors and community contacts, distribute information, fundraising, and a dinner dance. Without sufficient help, the events will not be possible. Suggestions are welcome as to how the weekend can be improved."

Expo on the Common

On **Saturday, October 2nd** from 9 AM to 3 PM, town groups will gather to provide food, fun and entertainment at the Town Common for the Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival. The day also allows non-profit and business organizations to inform community members about their groups. Most importantly, the Town Common festivities have drawn the townspeople together and helped to develop community spirit since the first Fall Festival in 1997.

Parade

Get in the Spirit by becoming a part of the annual parade. Decorate a car/truck, make a float, decorate a bike, doll carriage or wagon. Businesses, clubs, organizations, day care centers, schools (public and private) are welcome to carry a banner, dress in costumes, march with parents and bring their friends. Volunteers are needed to help on the parade committee as parade stagers and event coordinators. Contact Candace Longo at candacelongo@msn.com to join the fun.

Program Book

The SOS 2004 program book titled, "Volunteerism", will feature a recognition and brief description of non-profit organizations in Shrewsbury. All non-profit groups are requested to send a one-paragraph description with contact name, telephone, and e-mail address to dperry29@aol.com by **July 1**.

There's Poetry in the Air!

Margaret Welch

Reading/Curriculum Specialist

Walking through the lobby here at Floral recently, I heard the voices of two students. They were reciting poetry together. It was fascinating to listen to them. As one faltered, unsure of the next line the other would keep going until they were in unison again. This reciprocal "tag-teaming" was an effective strategy. Their confidence increased as they continued to practice. And all this was incidental – they were just walking down the corridor completing an errand together.

This is just one example of how poetry permeates our school – especially at this time of year. April is designated as National Poetry Month. It was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 "to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture". We launched our activities this year with a return visit by Andrew Green, a professional poet who worked with fifth grade students as a "poet in residence" (Mr. Green's visit was supported by PTO funding). This was followed by a special faculty meeting where teachers had the opportunity to share favorite poems and to discuss the importance of poetry in both their own lives and in their classroom practice.

The tradition of the Floral Street Poetry Celebration started in 1998 and has become a cherished time in the cultural life of the school. Every student in the school learns a poem by heart to recite with their class. Students in grades 3-5 are required to recite a published poem as a soloist. Students in the upper grades have the opportunity to write original poetry for a poetry competition. All of these activities are shared with students from other grades at our poetry assemblies and All School Meeting.

An innovation for this year has been the daily poetry share during morning announcements. Every morning this month a member of staff has read one of his or her favorite poems to the whole school over the intercom just before Sustained Silent Reading. Some of these are published poems and

some are original. All have been inspiring and thought provoking.

Our goals are: to increase students' exposure to, knowledge of, and appreciation of poetry; to improve students' articulation and public speaking skills; and to improve students' ability to memorize. Poetry can touch emotions in a very direct and simple way. Reading poetry is an excellent way to show students how we can make meaning from print. The Massachusetts Department of Education's Curriculum Frameworks state "Memorizing poetry . . . can engage students in listening closely to the sounds and rhythmic sequences of words." Poetry has a natural power to teach the essential tools of all writing. For students who struggle with reading, poetry presents a more manageable quantity of text. And students *love* to read and write poetry.

Reading poetry aloud at home is a wonderful way to connect with our school focus. There is no need to analyze the poet's message – just enjoy the sounds and rhythms of the language together. It is sometimes tempting to concentrate on short, funny poems with children. However, even young children can appreciate poems that touch the heart.

Suggested titles and authors:

Sing to the Sun: Ashley Bryan.

Surprises: Questions: Weather: Lee Bennett Hopkins

Talking Like the Rain: X. J. & Dorothy M. Kennedy.

Black Swan White Crow: Patrick Lewis.

all the small poems and fourteen more: Valerie Worth.

Touch the Poem: Arnold Adoff.

Elympics: X. J. Kennedy.

Fresh Paint: New Poems by Eve Merriam

My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins.

Hand in Hand: An American History through Poetry selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins

If you would like to submit articles or announcements to be included in the next Floral Street School Falcon Focus, please eMail your Word document to tbohush@aol.com.

Approved Financial Goal Requests for 2003-2004 School Year

Academic Enrichment

9,225.00	Bus Rentals for Field Trips
3,000.00	Poetry Celebration Authors
	Boston Ballet "Classical Moves" (3rd grade) (original req. \$1435) forgot
1,495.50	travel
1,300.00	Boston Symphony Orchestra Quartet (4th grade) (original req. \$1100)
	Historical Biography Performances (2nd & 4th grades)
1,260.00	L.I.Wilder3/15/ A.Earhart4/5
	Interactive performance by Paul Revere House "Midnight Ride" (3rd
1,125.00	grade)(\$1200 req)
895.00	Dinoman Performance (2nd grade) 4/7/04 check to performer
730.50	Peter & the Wolf Musical Performance (2nd grade)
700.00	Wingmaster Presentation of Live Owls for 2nd grade
685.50	Cantabrigia Brass Quintet (5th grade)
665.00	Hansel & Gretel (original request \$675)
400.00	Materials for Olympic Activities
250.00	Praise, Prompt & Pizza Workshop
\$21,731.50	<input type="checkbox"/>

Building & Grounds Improvements

3,500.00	Motorized projection screen for Gym
2,680.00	Shelving Units for basement storage
1,500.00	Audio Equipment
1,000.00	Robert Wilson Frames for Hall Displays
900.00	46" permanent outdoor game table for blacktop
676.00	Foam padding for under all ring areas on playground (permanent)
650.00	Two Tuff Clad Benchs (with back) for outdoor use
500.00	Garden @ Middle School
424.25	Fibar for replenishing fill on playground
300.00	Park bench for front of school
267.00	Foam pads for under monkey bar area (permanent)
191.00	plus shipping - Bike rack for back path riders
43.25	Chain nets for basketball hoops (9) (original req. \$45)
\$12,631.50	<input type="checkbox"/>

Classroom Materials

3,380.00	Holiday Gifts to Staff Members to purchase items for classrooms
2,800.00	Globes, Roll down & desk Maps of USA and World (grades 2-5)
1,222.00	Monaco hangup bag racks and 40 bags per class (original req. \$1350)
1,000.00	New Teacher Libraries
1,000.00	Rigby Readers for grade 1
407.66	Rigby Book Collections for title 1 students (original req. \$400)
400.45	Reading Rainbow Videos (originally \$400)
293.13	Locking cabinet to store supplies and student files (room 327)
249.21	Indoor recess games 5th grade (original req. \$250)
212.83	Music Transportation Cart (Orig. Request \$225)

FALCON FOCUS - VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4, SPRING 2004 EDITION

150.00	Donate a book funds
<u>\$11,115.28</u>	□

304.23	Staff Luncheon on 8/25/03
200.00	Shrewsbury Public Schools Professional Status Reception
<u>\$504.23</u>	□

Special Programs

1,572.21	Literacy Night - Tribal Rythms & Decorations etc.(original req. \$1750)
230.00	Contribution to help fund Parent Workshops district wide
200.00	To supplement admission fees for class trips
200.00	Catering for Community Reading Day
73.46	Spirit of Shrewsbury Decorations for float & town center (original req. \$100)
2,500.00	Grade Night Celebrations \$500/grade (original req. \$2500)
<u>\$4,775.67</u>	□

Organizational Expenses

	Accounting and mailing fees for current & 4 past year's PTO documents
940.00	
190.00	Checks, Office Supplies, Bulletin Board Set up & brochure printing
<u>\$1,130.00</u>	□

Total Requests Approved in All Categories of Funding

\$51,888.18

Fundraising Proceeds

Giftwrap	\$19,228.46
April Showers Calendars	\$6,873.00
Breakfast with Dad/Somebuddy Special	\$3,859.84
Family Portraits	\$1,545.00
Box Tops	\$486.20
Magical Evening of Giving	\$292.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$100.00
Cookbooks & Aprons	\$5.00
Borders Event - Estimate	\$300.00
Fun Run - Estimate	\$300.00
Hoop Shoot	\$49.00
Spring Carnival - Estimate	\$6,000.00

Total Fund Raising Proceeds for 2003-2004 School Year

\$39,038.50

PTO Budget Information (Continued)

Cash on Hand	48,398.47
Less Reserve for Balances Due on all Approved Requests	-31,961.31
Less Funds Reserved to open next school year	-5,000.00
Plus Fundraising for Spring (Estimates)	6,600.00
Estimate of Funds Available for Spring Requests	<u>18,037.16</u>

The budget this year exceeded the funds raised because there was a surplus building up in the accounts from previous years. The consensus at the General PTO meetings was to spend the money to benefit the students and families that raised it. The Financial Goals Committee considered a larger amount of requests from the Teachers, Staff and Administrators and Parent Project Coordinators than it would in an average year.

Important Spring Dates:

May 11	Grade 1 Field Trip – Mr. Avery and Mrs. Frankian’s classes.
May 12 & 14	Grade 3 Field Trips to Shrewsbury Center (class schedule TBA)
May 13	Grade 1 Field Trip – Mrs. McGrail and Mrs. Plourde’s classes
May 17-28	Grade 4 MCAS – English and Language Arts
May 17-28	Grade 5 MCAS - Science and Technology
May 18	PTO Meeting in Media Center at 7:00 p.m.
May 20	Grade 1 Field Trip – Ms. Meomartino & Mrs. Grossman’s classes.
May 25	Grade 4 Chorus Concert: 6:30 p.m. - Beall/Edgren/Walsh/Wilson 7:30 p.m. – Morgan/Manning/Portuondo/Rickard
May 31	No School, Memorial Day
June 5	Falcon Family Fair!
June 17	Fifth Grade Celebration (at Floral Street School), 9:30 a.m.
June 18	Last day of school (half day)